



W-2s are in the mail ... read them carefully

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force people who spent time in a newly recognized combat zone during the last part of the year should carefully review their W-2, and they might need to wait for a corrected form W-2C to arrive, Air Force officials said.

W-2 forms were mailed Jan. 15. “If you were entitled to combat zone tax exclusion during the final four months of 2001, we recommend you carefully review your W-2,” said Col. Martha Beatty, Air Force accounting and finance office director. “If you feel there are errors, delay filing your tax return until you contact your local finance office and see if you need a corrected W-2.”

The determination of CZTE and personnel system problems caused many pay records to update late, Beatty said. A statement on January leave and earnings statements will remind people about the potential for errors.

President Bush signed an executive order Sept. 19 that designated Afghanistan and the airspace above it as a combat zone. Air Force people directly supporting operations in Afghanistan from other locations may also be eligible for CZTE if they are receiving imminent danger pay or hostile fire pay.

The Internal Revenue Service established a toll-free telephone number for military people or their families to call with any tax questions that may arise. Callers will not be limited to asking combat zone-related tax questions. The number is (866) 562-5227.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum

Seeing clearly

Despite her deteriorating eyesight, Contreil Littles, a seventh-grade student at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, was able to contribute to the student medical team at “mission control” during a recent visit to the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks. Littles used a specially designed device that magnified images for her. See story, page 13.

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Air Force gears up for new civilian personnel system

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — When the Air Force makes the changeover to the Modern Defense Civilian Personnel Data System Feb. 15, it will not be a leap into the unknown. A series of tests, mock database conversions and a lot of hard work has officials giving a “thumbs-up” to the planned deployment of the new system.

“We’ve spent a great deal of time and resources testing this system,” said Shirley Williams, a member of the Senior Executive Service and the director of the Air Force’s Palace Compass Program management office at the Pentagon.

“We’ve conducted many tests both in the laboratory and in the field at McChord (Wash.), Charleston (S.C.), Holloman (N.M.), F.E. Warren (Wyo.), Dobbins (Ga.) and Hill (Utah) Air Force bases. We converted the Air Force-wide database twice in mock conversion scenarios and feel confident that with all the testing, planning and preparation we’ve done, the deployment will go well.”

It is difficult, if not impossible, to plan for the unknown, Williams said.

“We know the unexpected will occur,” she said. “So in anticipation, we have a structure in place, and staff at the Pentagon, Air Force Personnel Center and major commands trained and ready to tackle any unforeseen problems.”

The move to the modern civilian personnel system is a Department of Defense-wide initiative and is necessary to reduce cost and eliminate redundancy. Many of the computers and other hardware the current system uses are also becoming obsolete.

The modern system will eventually compensate for the projected losses planned in the personnel workforce because of the DOD-mandated personnel regionalization, she said.

The Air Force will officially deploy the Modern Defense Civilian Personnel Data System Feb. 15. Civilian personnel flights and the AFPC will not be able to process position or personnel actions from Feb. 10- Mar. 8. The new system should be on-line the beginning of March, officials said.

Major benefits for Air Force civilian employees will result from two Air Force-unique applications — the Civilian Announcement Notification System and the Employee Benefits In-

formation System.

The Civilian Announcement Notification System is a state-of-the-art announcement subscription service that searches for Air Force civilian vacancies. Employees will be able to register their job and geographic preferences in the system, and will be notified via e-mail when an employment vacancy matches their preferences.

This service is already available to Air Force civilian employees and can be accessed through the website at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs. CANS will be fully implemented for internal merit promotion once deployment to the modern system is complete.

The benefits system allows employees to review and update benefits via the internet or by phone. In the future, officials expect the Modern Civilian Personnel System to provide employees with quicker answers to inquiries, allow direct access to personal information and the ability to update personal data.

Along with the implementation of the modern system, the Air Force will implement the Standard Automated



DISCOVERY

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Remember the dream...

By Gen. Lester L. Lyles

Air Force Materiel Command commander

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — I would never try to recollect the story of Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, or his accomplish-

ments. Most Americans are familiar with this

already, or certainly will have the opportunity to

learn more about this great man from the many

historical articles and TV specials presented

d u r i n g our national holiday honoring him.

I n - stead, I want to briefly

reflect on f a m o u s Dr. King's most

Have a speech, "I

Dream,"

which he

gave nearly

40 years

ago this

year on Aug.

28, 1963.

I was 17

years old on

that hot,

sultry day and

about to

enter

college

in my

home-

town of

Wash-

ington,

D.C.

I can

honestly

say I was

not a young man

with a great social

conscience at the time. Yes, I was obviously

concerned about the plight of minorities, but I was

not fully involved in the equality movement.

The march for equality in Washington, D.C. that

day was, at first, nothing more than an exciting

happening — lots of people; movie and TV stars;

and political dignitaries.

I remember walking down the broad expanse of

Constitution Avenue from the U.S. Capitol to the

park grounds and reflecting pool by the Lincoln

Memorial listening to people singing, "We Shall

Overcome" — watching people marching arm-in-

arm like old friends.

What initially stirred my emotions and started

me thinking that this was not just a happening,

but something truly significant, was when I

noticed that this magnificent crowd of 300,000 did

not contain just African-Americans — but people of

all races and ages; people from all walks of life

marching and singing for a cause. This was true

integration and equality.

When Dr. King came to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, a hush slowly descended over the crowd and he began in his deep, melodious, rich tone. With the giant statue of Abraham Lincoln as a backdrop, it was almost as if the president who freed the slaves was pleased at what he was seeing and hearing; like a fatherly spirit proud of what his Emancipation Proclamation had set in motion some 100 years before.

We've come a long way as a society since that day in 1963, thanks to the unceasing contribu-

tions of heroes like Dr. King ... some

known and many more un-

known. It is the countless

unknown heroes we

should strive to recognize

and remember during

Martin Luther King Jr.

Day.

If you are inclined to

doubt the success of

these heroes, just

ponder the cur-

rent landscape

in our

nation's

senior

lead-

er-

ship

—

Sec-

retary

of

State

Colin

Powell,

National

Security Adviser

Condoleeza Rice, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and congressmen and women. The list of luminaries goes on across all walks of life — politics, religion and especially the military.

I hope Martin Luther King Jr. Day will not just be 'a day of rest.' It should be a day of action — that each of you will participate in projects that promote the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

This national holiday reminds us that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy lives on. His dream has made a difference in our lives, both as a nation and personally.

You too can continue to make a positive difference for today and the future by just practicing the ideals of Dr. King.

"I have a dream..."

The *Discovery* is online.

Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.



February Enlisted Promotions

The following Brooks enlisted members will be promoted in February.

To Master Sergeant:

Robert Eshelman

Air Force Research Laboratory

David Harmon

Air Force Medical Support Agency

David Yandon

311th Human Systems Program Office

To Technical Sergeant:

Lori Elkins

311th Medical Squadron

Jimmy Moore

68th Information Operations Squadron

Voncelle Bell

AFRL

To Staff Sergeant:

John Donahue

311th Communications Squadron

We **SALUTE**



Amy Forster

AFMSA

Selina Hamblin

Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety
and Occupational Health Risk Analysis

Jennifer Hilton

311th Security Forces Squadron

Kathryn Logan

311th Medical Squadron

Robert Pickering

AFRL

Blanca Rainey

311thABG

Kristine Robin

AFMSA

James Rouse

311th Human Systems Wing Office of
the Staff Judge Advocate

Arco Ruiz

311th Air Base Group

Brook Wood

AFMSA

To Senior Airman:

Kristina Brown

AFRL

Shane Burke

68th IOS

Patrice Davis

311thABG

Lance London

68th IOS

Christina Rivera

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace

Medicine

Gilberto Velazquez

311th CS

To Airman First Class:

Kyle George

68th IOS

Jessica Higgs

311th SFS

Kathryn Krekleberg

311th CS

Ruby Swayzer

USAFSAM



Those who share King’s dream ‘virtual citizens’

By Rick Guidry

Discovery Staff Writer

The Brooks chapel was multi-colored shades of humanity Jan. 17 when the base community paused to observe Martin Luther King’s birthday and legacy. The guest speaker was Col. Nate Crawford, deputy command chaplain, Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base.

Crawford delivered a fiery tribute to Dr. King’s battle for human and civil rights. He said his aim was to “set the record straight about Reverend King the true man.” He challenged the audience to be “authentic Americans” by standing up for the true principles of American democracy in words and deeds.

The authenticity he said, came from actively defending the nation’s moral values and creeds through “virtual citizenship.”

Crawford called Dr. King “a theologian, a pastor, a brother and a friend.”

He added that while King led a redemptive revolution, any honest assessment of the humanitarian leader could not “separate his faith from who he was. He was a God-led man.”

The minister called King’s dream “a vision of hope. It gave Americans a sense of unanimity.”

He asked attendees “What are you going to do with this information? Are you going to help somebody? Are you going to be an authentic American?”

Crawford urged those present to “be yourself, be your best self for others, and follow the way of God who will show you how to be your best self.”

With the audience in spirited support, the preacher concluded “we don’t have to be Americans only in a crisis, we can make it a way of life. Words are hollow. Nobody wants to hear just words.”

Jeri Peterson, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, was the Martin Luther King observance chairperson. She honored Dr. King’s contributions with a realistic portrayal of a young lady’s reaction after just hearing of his death. The African-American Cultural Association Committee sponsored the event. Lt. Col. Clifton Jackson, 311th Human Systems Program Office, chairperson for the upcoming Brooks Black History Month events taking place in February, was the senior military representative for the observance.



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Members of the Brooks community paused to observe Martin Luther King’s birthday and legacy during a ceremony at the Brooks Chapel Jan. 17. Chaplain Nathan Crawford, deputy command chaplain, Air Education and Training command at Randolph Air Force Base, was the featured speaker.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil

Contributions to America’s defense highlight Brooks Black History Month

By Rick Guidry

Discovery Staff Writer

The Brooks community and the African-American Cultural Association will sponsor and co-sponsor events in February to celebrate Black History Month 2002. This year’s theme is “The African-American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America’s Defense.”

Rick Sinkfield, AACA president, said, “We join to celebrate African-American history and culture. We also aim to foster positive relations in our culturally diverse environment.”

Events will emphasize African-American culture and support the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund.

For event tickets or further information, contact the AACA at 536-4188, Lt. Col. Clifton Jackson, Black History Month Chairperson at 536-4931, or visit the website at: www.brooks.af.mil/aaca.

The following summarizes the planned events.

The Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Essay Contest. Established in 1992, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or those currently attending college in the Brooks military, civilian or dependent community. Independent evaluators will judge essays on the question “How have recent events impacted African-Americans and their culture?” The essay is due no later than 3 pm, Jan. 31. Applications are available at local installation libraries, family support centers or education offices. It may also be downloaded from the AACA web site. Call Lt. Dennis Clements, at 536-2359, for more details.

Military Heroes Day, 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Feb. 5, at Sidney’s. Visitors will have a chance to talk with San Antonio Buffalo Soldiers’ Association’s 9th Cavalry members while they demonstrate history on the range. Members of the Tuskegee Air-

men, who took to the skies in World War II, will discuss the military climate during those years. Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins can be reached at 536-3766 for more information.

Lifebuilders Speakers Series, at noon each Wednesday in February at the base chapel. The AACA has teamed with the chapel to present speakers from the military and local community. Contact Lt. Col. Clifton Jackson, at 536-4931, or the chapel staff at 536-3824 for more information

Story Time, at 9 a.m., Feb. 7 at the Child Development Center. Children will be led through folk tales and will act out the roles. For more information, contact Erica Richard at 536-3275.

Golf Tournament, Feb. 8, Noon tee off. This four-man best-ball tournament features prizes for the greatest to the latest. The tournament also supports the scholarship fund. The fee is \$25 per player. Contact Maj. Neil Pryor at 536-6241 for more information.

Black History /Valentines Day Fun Run, at noon, Feb. 14, at the Base Fitness Center. This 5k Funk/Walk event is sponsored by the fitness center staff and the AACA. Contact Josie Swindell, 536-3723 or the Fitness Center at 536-2188 for additional information

The Scholarship Luncheon is scheduled for 11:15 a.m., Feb. 21 at the Brooks Club. The keynote speaker is Gen. Bernard P. Randolph, former commander, Air Force Systems Command. The buffet luncheon menu will include rosemary chicken and roast beef. Tickets are \$10, and available from any AACA member. People may RSVP at the AACA website. Call 2nd Lt. Tim Boykin at 536-5425 for tickets or contact Capt. Pamela Howard-Whitehurst, at 536-2624 for additional information.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



PMEL lab ‘measures up’ to its mission

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

With measured precision that would have been admired by ancient Egyptian pyramid builders, Brooks Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory recently enhanced its reputation as a premiere Air Force facility that enforces high standards. “We have been certified as a Type III lab, equivalent to a medical research facility,” said Ed Gambal, Rohmann Services, Inc. (RSI) site contract manager. This accomplishment sets ‘the standard’ for other facilities within the metrology (science of measurement) community to emulate. Since its inception, the Brooks PMEL lab has operated continuously without being decertified. Initially established in 1972 to support the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, PMEL today provides many military organizations with calibration support on more than 5,000 end items ranging from pressure gauges to oscilloscopes. Operated by RSI, the lab’s customers include Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base,

Security Services at the Kelly Annex, Lackland’s Medina Annex, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, the U.S. Army, the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, the Air Force Research Laboratory and the 68th Information Operations Squadron. PMEL also supports various 311th Air Base Group organizations. PMEL’s calibration support is traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment. Calibration is the comparison of an instrument of unconfirmed accuracy to another instrument of known and even greater accuracy. Laser targeting devices and complex avionics equipment are among items that require calibration. Gambal explained that metrology is essential in ensuring that Air Force systems are accurate and reliable. Biennially, Brooks PMEL undergoes an assessment and certification audit to ensure it complies with Air Force Metrology and Calibration Program directives.

Brooks community comes through with care again

By Rick Guidry

Discovery Staff Writer

The Brooks community made generous holiday donations to the Brooks Cares program in November and December, allowing first sergeants here to help some 36 needy families. Chief Master Sergeant Voreda Slone, program president, said “Overall more gifts were donated this year than any previous year and this was due to the generosity of Brooks personnel. The community made healthy donations,” Chief Slone reported. “One individual wrote \$200 check from his personal account. Unselfish donations like that helped tremendously.” The Brooks First Sergeants Council has sponsored the Brooks Cares

program for a few decades now through monetary, food and gift donations to needy Brooks families. “This is a year-round program,” Master Sgt. Bertell Francois pointed out. “Thanks to the Brooks community, we are able to maintain funds for the needy through their benevolence. This program cannot survive without the support of Brooks people. Francois adds. “Anybody who works on Brooks is eligible for the benefits of this volunteer program. Just contact any first sergeant about the details regarding any aspect of the program.” Slone indicates Brooks first sergeants are exploring various initiatives to make donations more available to continue helping needy Brooks families.



Brooks deacon celebrates silver anniversary

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A former U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine senior master sergeant 25 years ago switched from helping 'breathe life' into the tissues of hyperbaric patients to helping 'breathe renewed life' among fellow parishioners who he has faithfully served as a Roman Catholic deacon.

The Air Force and the Brooks Chapel community honored Eugene Sekinger at the end of last Sunday's mass to commemorate the silver anniversary of his ordination.

Sekinger's actual anniversary coincided with Monday's federal holiday that celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

On Jan. 21, 1977, exactly three months before the Discovery was first published, Sekinger was ordained at the Brooks Chapel by San Antonio's Archbishop Patrick Flores. The event marked the only time in Air Force history that a military deacon had been ordained in a military church.

"We can't live without him. They (he and his wife) are the history of the (Brooks) chaplain program," said Lt. Col. Dennis K. McCarty, 311th Human Systems Wing chaplain.

McCarty presented the Sekingers with a crystal dish commemorating his service to the parish community. He also read letters of appreciation from Maj. Gen. Lorraine Potter, Air Force Chief of Chaplain Services; Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th HSW commander; Col. Ron Kelling, Air Force Materiel Command Chaplain; and former 311th HSW Chaplain Father Leonard Zeller, the last active duty Catholic chaplain assigned to Brooks.

McCarty said, "Eugene and his wife Joyce began working with Air Force chapel programs in 1967. Toward the end of his military career he committed to the diaconate and has served the entire 25-year period at Brooks. For the past two and one-half years he has provided weekday Eucharistic services. There is no active duty Catholic chaplain assigned to Brooks, so the deacon's presence is priceless."

Since Zeller's Brooks departure in 1999, Sekinger has been busy recruiting Catholic priests to serve here. Thanks to the Sekingers' perseverance, four priests have since served the Brooks parish community. During periods when priests were not available, Sekinger and his wife, who is an Eucharistic minister, have helped fulfill parishioners' needs.

"A Catholic deacon can do everything a priest can do except three things: consecrate the bread and wine during communion, perform Last Rites and absolve sins during confessions," explains Sekinger.

Since becoming a deacon, he has been very busy in a role that in many ways is a full-time job. He has officiated at countless baptisms, weddings and funerals. Additionally, he publishes the weekly Catholic parish bulletin, serves on the Parish Advisory Council, works daily as a Brooks Chapel office volunteer and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Kavanaugh

Eugene Sekinger has conducted Eucharistic services every Wednesday for more than two years for the Brooks Chapel parish community.

serves as the Catholic liaison to the Protestant Advisory Council.

Sekinger credits his wife for persuading him to become a deacon when the Roman Catholic Church revived the program that had been dormant for 1,400 years.

"At the Vatican II Council, they decided to revive the deacon pro-

gram because of the priest shortage (worldwide). San Antonio was one of four cities in the U.S. that initially participated in the deacon training program," Sekinger explained.

Deacons receive the same training as priest-bound seminarians. During four years of training, they learn church history, canon law and

procedures associated with marriages, baptisms and funerals.

By 1970 when the deacon program had been re-established, Sekinger was a three-year Brooks veteran as the non-commissioned officer in charge of USAFSAM's physiology training. He was responsible for both the hyperbaric and altitude chambers.

The 70-year-old New Orleans native originally joined the Air Force in 1952 as an aeromedical evacuation technician. He switched to the physiology career field while stationed with USAFSAM, then located at Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. Subsequent assignments included tours at Barksdale AFB, La.; Laughlin AFB, Texas; and McDill AFB, Fla.

Seven years before his Air Force retirement in 1980, Sekinger decided to become a deacon.

"The Lord was calling him to do something special," said Joyce, who assists him in his duties. Her support has truly been a blessing.

"Many deacons don't have that luxury," Sekinger said of his spouse, noting that she has been very understanding about his 'on call' status as a deacon.

The pair has shared some great experiences together serving the community. His most memorable experiences as deacon include his involvement in helping his father-in-law become a Catholic and the baptism at the base chapel of then 74-year-old World War II aviation hero Maj. Richard Anderson.

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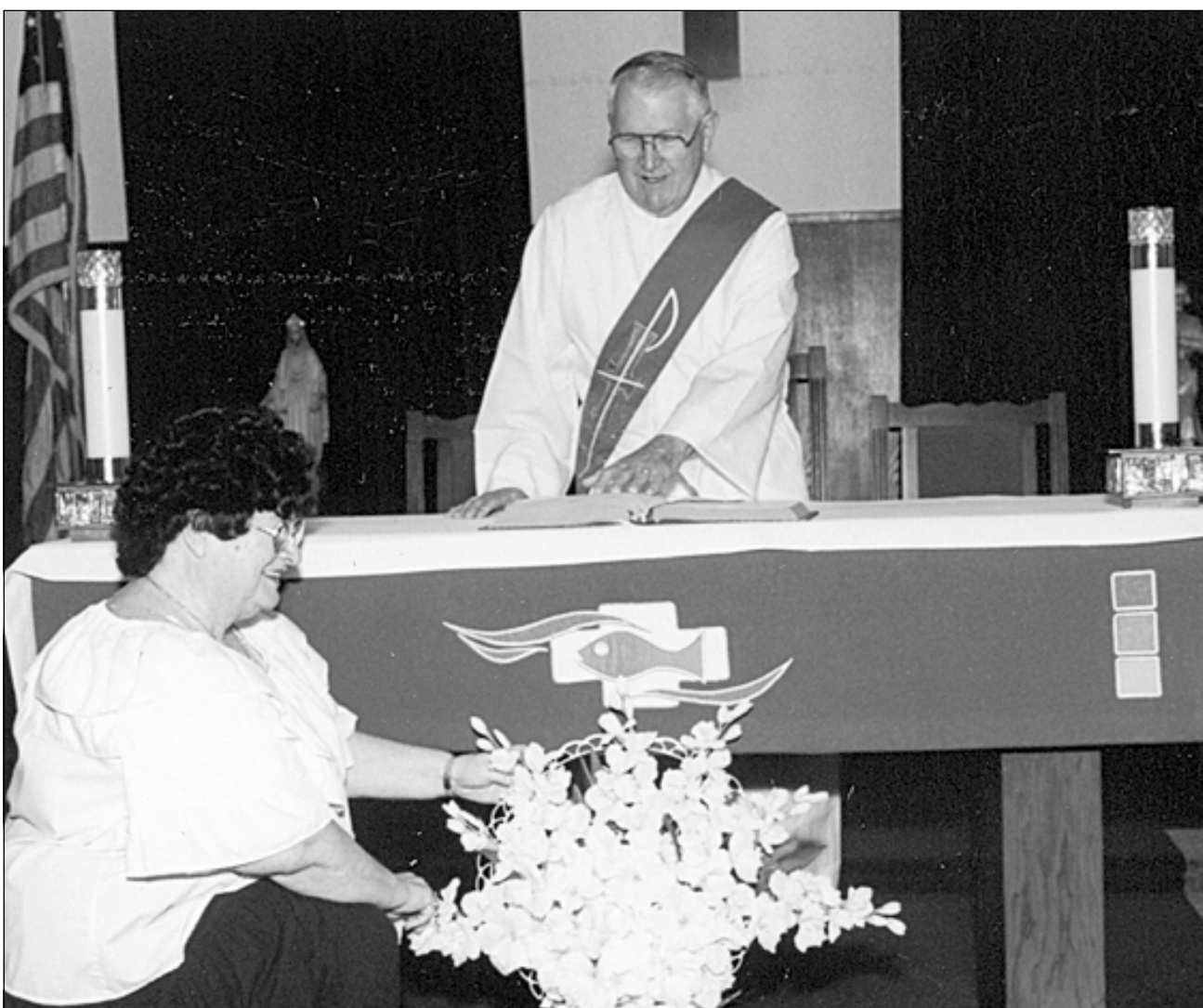


Photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Kavanaugh

Sekinger and his wife Joyce prepare for a Eucharistic service at the Brooks Chapel.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

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311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
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Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Sponsor training

10 - 11 a.m., Feb. 5, Bldg. 538—

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Come to this YOFAM class and learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Digging out of debt

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Feb. 6, Bldg. 538—
Pre-registering a must**

Attend this "Year of the Family" seminar and learn how to live debt free and stick to it. Find out how to determine if you have too

much debt, the consequences of your debt, and how to get out of debt.

Single parents

1 - 3 p.m., Jan. 29, Brooks Chapel

All single parents, military and civilian are invited to this YOFAM event.

Come out and join in on the food and fun and meet other single parents. A soup and sandwich lunch will be provided by the chapel.

For more information contact Chaplain Stephen Allen at 536-3824.

Start the new year right

Now is the time to set new goals for saving and investing. Consider short-term and long-term needs and wants.

Prioritize your goals and create a journal to track your progress. Try contributing more to your savings and investments to help reach your goals.

Organize your financial records.

Review and update wills, insurance policies, and any beneficiary forms to reflect life changes.

Consult your legal and financial professional who can help you make the proper changes.

Make sure your wishes are reflected in your insurance and retirement plan beneficiary designations.

For financial assistance and starting the New Year on the right track, contact LaWanda Hawkins, personal financial manager at the Brooks Family Support Center by calling 536-2444 .



‘SPO scope’ enhances downed aviators’ night vision, navigation

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

No longer will downed Air Force pilots grope their way in the dark behind enemy lines in hopes of avoiding capture. Thanks to a new night vision device that the 311th Human Systems Program Office has tested and evaluated, aviators’ chances for survival in the murkiness of nighttime contingency operations has been greatly enhanced.

The Evader’s Night Vision Imaging System has become part of Air Combat Command aircrew survival vest ensembles following the 311th SPO’s interim safe-to-fly recommendation issued shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

“Scott O’Grady couldn’t see his rescuers,” said Maj. Al Gracia, referring to the downed Air Force pilot’s 1994 ordeal in Bosnia that magnified certain search and survival technological deficiencies that have since been addressed. Prior to ENVIS, downed Air Force pilots had been without a survival night vision device.

Gracia’s Warfighter Requirements and New Technologies Integrated Product Team became involved in assessing ENVIS, a commercial off-the-shelf device, due to an urgent ACC request.

“An F-117 pilot, shot down over Kosovo in 1999, during a (post-rescue) debriefing identified some big deficiencies: the ability to evade the enemy and see rescuers at night,” Gracia said.

According to Col. John A. Snider, commander of the 49th Operations Support Squadron (ACC) at Hollomon AFB, N.M., the downed pilot from his command prompted a recommendation to ACC headquarters to investigate adopting a small, portable night vision monocular device that can be packed inside an SRU-21/P survival vest during combat missions.

In a memorandum to ACC headquarters, Snider wrote, “This device would greatly increase the downed pilots’ ability to assess the enemy threat, aid in the pilot’s ability to

evade the enemy at night, provide an additional covert directional signal, increase their chances of survival and improve their chances of rescue.”

“ACC contacted us in early 2001, recommending this device and their requirements. Once we got the requirements, we identified and coordinated tests to evaluate the device,” said Richard Rousett, 311th SPO IPT Requirements Program Manager.

ACC wanted evaluated the multi-purpose ENVIS, produced by the Emmaus, Pennsylvania-based Night Vision Equipment Company. The company claims ENVIS is the only night vision system in the world designed specifically to meet survival, evasion, resistance and escape (SERE) military requirements.

Operating on two double-A batteries, ENVIS is smaller than most survival

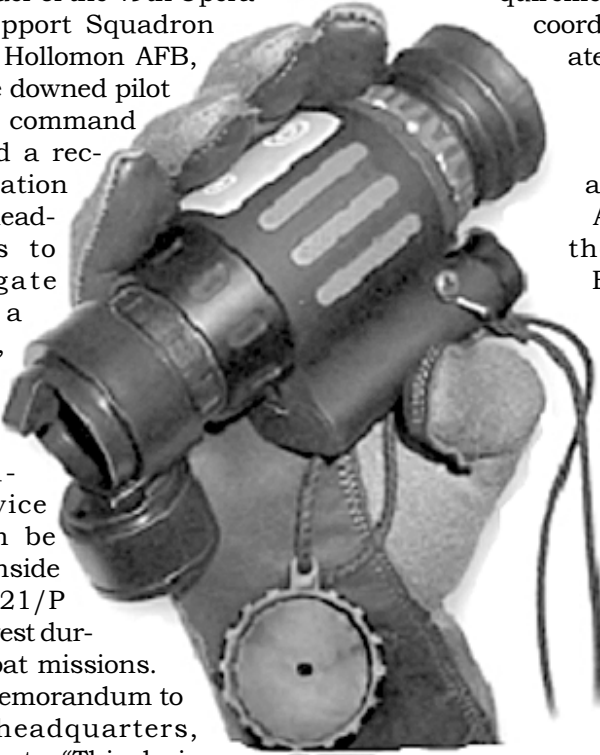
radios. It weighs less than 15 ounces, uses infrared imaging technology and features both a compass module and a covert signaling capability.

SPO IPT member Al Gonzalez, TEAMS contractor for Core6 Solutions, said the device passed a series of rapid decompression, windblast and sled tests.

ACC headquarters was subsequently granted an interim safe-to-fly approval for ENVIS for one year. The recommendation, issued in October, allows ENVIS to be used on all combat Air Force SRU 21/P and Air Ace survival vests for contingency operations only.

“In the future, we’re looking at full safe-to-fly certification that will allow its permanent use on life support ensembles,” Gracia said.

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Pilots West, Strawn typify Class of '42

By Rick Guidry
Discovery Staff Writer

Nineteen members of a 1942 Brooks Field pilot training class gathered at Brooks this month for their 60th and final anniversary reunion.

Less than 40 of 115 class members are still alive.

Attendees retold their favorite tales and said their goodbyes, before and after base officials and the Brooks Heritage Foundation expressed thanks in a ceremony in Hangar 9.

Reunion president, Col. Jarrett Roan reflected that all class members made history, and some distinguished themselves.

The class' contributions to World War II victory in all theaters of conflict are too lengthy to list in one article.

The stories of Wilbur West and Harry Strawn are illustrative of the Class of 42.

See related story, page 15

Former Missouri mayor reunites with fellow Brooks-trained pilots

By Rick Guidry
Discovery Staff Writer

Harry Strawn deployed to England for World War II in Europe and North Africa on the Queen Elizabeth I.

"Make sure you get that right," the airman urged. "It was the Queen Elizabeth I, not the Queen Elizabeth II."

The pilot talked about that and his war experiences at Brooks this month in Hangar 9 during the 60th and final anniversary reunion of his 1942 Brooks Field training class.

"We trained in AT-6s and BC-1s, basic combat trainers. Graduation required successfully completing a 300-plus mile round trip flight," said retired Col. Jarett B. Roan, reunion group president.

After graduation, Strawn flew P-39 Spitfires with the Wild Ducks, the 309th Fighter Squadron of the 31st Fighter Group. Strawn was one of the first members of the 309th. The unit began its history at Baer Field, Fort Wayne, Indiana in January 1942. Six months later, the newly instituted squadron was rushed to the war in Europe, claiming their first kill on their second day of fighting.

While he practiced for eventual missions, flying an average of 5 sorties each day, Strawn was to fly in indirect support of a raid on the French port city of Dieppe. The Dieppe raid was one of the bloodiest battles of the 20th Century. Carried

out primarily by Canadian troops, it was designed to test German coastal defenses. Of the more than 4,900 Canadians who took part, more than 3,300 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

"It was certainly a harsh awakening to the chaos of war," explained Strawn, who was a first lieutenant at the time.

Strawn later went from England to North Africa where he continued to fly Spitfires. The Muskogee, Okla. native opined that "The Spitfires were probably the greatest fighter aircraft in the early part of the World War II, but the P-51 Mustangs were the greatest overall. We had planes that could fight!"

On a fateful mission over Iran, Strawn ran into enemy flak, forcing him to parachute behind enemy lines in Bzordi. German soldiers took him prisoner, and struggled to get his parachute off because they could not read English instructions. Initially, the German soldiers did not think he was an American airman. He showed them a pack of Lucky Strikes Greens, and they were convinced.

Strawn sustained injuries to his arms, shoulders, leg and back.

"A German doctor from Tunis operated on all those areas, and he literally sewed my nerves back together. I'm still looking for that doctor to thank him," Strawn added. Sedated with sodium penthanol, the injured lieutenant was on the

operating table for 7 hours. "When I got back to the United States, doctors here were asking me who operated on me. They said they had never seen more expert medical work."

The recuperating POW was made commander of patients in the hospital. About two months later, allied forces recaptured Brzordi. The Germans surrendered to Strawn.

His war experiences behind him, Strawn left the Army Air Corps and returned to the United States and established a fighter training school in Naples, Fla. The commercial venture supported about 200 students.

After his flying school venture in Florida, Strawn went into the wholesale leather business, and then trash recycling in Little Rock, Ark.

With an interest in government service, Strawn was mayor of Springfield, Missouri from 1981 to 1983. He also was a Springfield City Councilman for 8 years. He and wife Marjorie remain residents of Springfield. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

His grandson, Airman Basic Jason Strawn, graduated from basic training in September. At the time of the reunion, the new Air Force member was awaiting his permanent assignment location as a security policeman.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



NEWS

briefs

Enlisted promotion ceremony

The Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 31 at 2:30 p.m. in the Brooks Club. All enlisted promotees will be recognized for their promotion to the next higher grade for the months of January and February.

Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects for participation in hypobaric (altitude) chamber research projects.

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month.

Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least 2 years, be between 20-45 years old, and able to pass an appropriate physical exam.

Contact Jim Carlile at 536-3546, or Heather Alexander at 536-3440 for more information.

Active duty medical inprocessing

All active duty members (Army, Navy, Air Force) are required to in-process through the base clinic when they arrive at Brooks. The Military Personnel Flight will provide an appointment for this mandatory medical orientation for all active duty newcomers. The medical orientation is an important step to accessing care at this facility.

During this briefing, the active duty member will complete necessary documentation to change primary care assignment to Brooks Clinic from their previous duty station. Delaying your attendance at the medical orientation and completion of the proper TRICARE transfer documentation may cause delays in TRICARE assignment. Unfortunately, completion of the transfer for the active duty member does not ensure that the family members are transferred. The sponsor or spouse must stop by a TRICARE Service Center to complete the

necessary TRICARE transfer enrollment forms for all non-active duty members. There is a TRICARE Service Center at the Brooks clinic for your convenience.

If you have any questions regarding TRICARE enrollment, please call 536-2928 or the TRICARE Service Center at 1-800-406-2832. The 311th Medical Squadron is proud to be your partner in health care.

Brooks Toastmasters

Toastmasters is an international organization formed in 1924 to aid in effective communication, practicing public speaking in a relaxed environment. Toastmasters meets here each Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

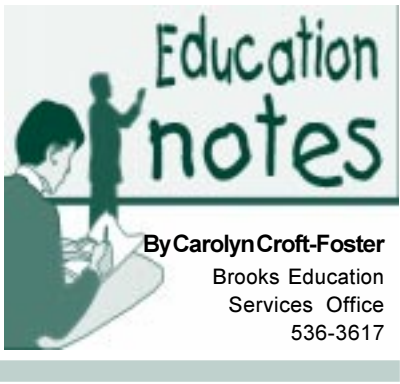
Contact Rick Young at 536-4464 or Capt. Juan Ubiera at 536-1953 for more information.

Technology expo

The 311th Communications Squadron will host the Brooks technology Expo, scheduled for Jan. 29 at the Brooks Club from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. The event is open to all base personnel. More than 20 different manufacturers, developers and systems integrators will participate.

Military equal opportunity office

The Military Equal Opportunity office has relocated to Bldg. 570-C. MEO assists military members, their families, and retirees with equal opportunity and treatment issues and allegations of sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, and sex. They also provide teambuilding sessions, mediation, and other informal services to help resolve conflicts and prevent hostile work environments. Training includes diversity/self awareness, communication and perception, and human relations skills for managers and supervisors. If the training doesn't meet your needs, the staff can also personalize training sessions to meet specific needs of the unit. Work-related counseling and referrals are also available. For more information call 536-2574 or 536-2584.



ROTC briefing

The ROTC Detachments from Southwest Texas State University and the University of Texas at San Antonio will visit Brooks Feb. 7 at 9 a.m. to discuss the various scholarship programs available to active duty airmen that lead to Air Force commissioning. There are one to four year programs available. All airmen are invited to attend the briefing in Bldg. 558. For more information call 536-3617.

Representatives available

The local school representatives have returned from the holidays and have available appointments for students setting new goals toward education. The UTSA Graduate Studies and Undergraduate representatives will visit Brooks Monday mornings from 9 a.m.- noon. Park University and SWT will also visit Brooks on Mondays. ACCD continues to visit every Tuesday and Wayland Baptist visits the first Tuesday of the month. Texas A & M has appointments available every Wednesday from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Our Lady of the Lake and St. Mary's visit every third Thursday. The representatives offices have been relocated to Bldg. 558. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3617.

ACCD placement testing

The Alamo Community College Representative will

administer the alternative TASP placement exam for students wanting to attend an ACCD school during Flex 2. The test is scheduled for Feb. 13 at 8 a.m. in Bldg. 558 and is open to active duty, civilians and family members. To reserve a seat, call 536-3617.

CCAF Spring graduation deadline

The deadline for Community College of the Air Force Spring 2002 graduation is Feb. 22. Nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell AFB, AL by that date. Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

Six CLEP exams retire

The College Board is retiring 6 CLEP Subject paper-based tests in fiscal year 2002. The exams that will be retired July 1 are: American Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Human Growth and Development, Marketing, Sociology, and Trigonometry. CLEP Testing will continue to be administered on Fridays but will now be located in Building 558, Testing Room. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 536-3617.

Applications due

Applications for the U.S. Air Force Academy and Preparatory School are due by Jan. 31. Students who have not submitted an AF Form 125 need to complete the form in Education Services immediately. Applications for the Physician Assistant Program are due Jan. 25. Applications for ROTC Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program and Professional Officer's Course—Early Release Program are due March 1 in Education Services. Schedule an appointment to meet with the guidance counselor to review requirements.



Jiru

**FULL NAME:**

Captain Julie Anne Jiru

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:Deputy Chief of Military Justice,
Chief of Legal Assistance
311th Human Systems Wing
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate**WHAT IS MY JOB?:**Assist in the maintenance of order
and discipline through the adminis-
tration of military justice and ensure
the effective provision of legal
services to those eligible.**BIRTHDAY:**

January 31, 1974

HOMETOWN:Vero Beach (Fla.) if I had
to pick just one.**PERSONAL MOTTO**

A life lived in fear is a life half-lived.

HOBBIES:Open amateur Latin dancing, writing,
and painting.**PET PEEVE:**

People who tailgate.

**BOOK OR BOOKS
AT BEDSIDE?**The Two Towers
Marine Sniper**I BECAME AN AIR FORCE
OFFICER BECAUSE:**

It's my calling.

FIVE-YEAR GOALS:Get an L.L.M. in Space Law
Contribute in the area of space
warfare and space weapons treaty
negotiations.
Compete in the Ohio Star Ball**ULTIMATE GOAL:**

To die with no regrets.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:Put aside part of it to pay the taxes on
it and invest the rest.**FAVORITE MUSIC:**

Latin.

LAST MOVIE WATCHED:

Behind Enemy Lines

**MY GREATEST
ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:**

Creating a life I love living

By Rick Guidry

Discovery staff writer

This lady is not your typical lawyer. She goes to work in combat boots, speaks Latin with verve, and is grand daughter of Edward Jiru, a World War I doughboy. She dances for a hobby; make that ballroom dancing.

Captain Julie Jiru dons two hats as deputy chief of military justice, and chief of legal assistance with 311th Human Systems Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

This is the south Florida native's first assignment, having been at Brooks just over a year now. Jiru says she's enjoying "serving military people and being part of something that is bigger than me or just one office. When I help people in their legal affairs, they can concentrate better on the mission."

The deputy chief of military justice prosecutes court-martials, assists in non-judicial personnel actions such as discharges and

She also was active in the Latin Club, the debate team, the National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, and the Law Enforcement Club.

Her command of Latin led to a stint as captain of the Certamen team, a Latin college bowl of sorts. Her high school Latin honors include top scorer in Texas in Latin vocabulary. At the national level she was first in vocabulary, derivatives, Latin mottoes, quotations and phrases. She also earned fourth place in reading comprehension.

The officer says her favorite Latin phrase is "Et mihi res, non me rebus subiungere," attributed to the philosopher Horace. "The meaning to me is 'I try to suit life to myself, not



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Article 15s, and advises commanders and first sergeants.

In her chief of legal assistance role, Jiru ensures continuity of legal assistance for military members, their dependants, and retirees. The captain also helps troops anticipate legal matters that could need their attention if they are deployed.

Air Force blue is not just a color to the Jiru family. Counting their great-grandfather, she and brother Michael are fourth generation Air Force officers. Her grandfather Lt. Col. Edward Jiru flew P-51 Mustang aircraft in World War II. The pilot also served in the Korean conflict.

Jiru's parents are Air Force veterans. Colonel Michael William Jiru, a medical logistician, retired in San Antonio after serving at Brooks in his next to last assignment. Captain Jane Claire Woodyard, who now lives in Tallahassee, Fla., was an Air Force nurse in the late 1960s.

Her tours of duty include Izmir, Turkey, where Jiru's brother was born. Known as "Diva" by co-workers, Woodyard now works for the Tallahassee Outpatient Surgery Clinic.

Captain Michael Jiru, Jr., is deputy chief of the Modular Simulation International Surveillance and Reconnaissance Program at Hanscom Field, Mass. His wife Capt. Ann Wong-Jiru, works in space technology there.

A graduate of Madison High School in San Antonio, Jiru was a member of the Young Lawyer's Association.

myself to life'. Generally, the true translation is 'I try to subject things to myself, not myself to things'. However, you can see the meanings don't have the same effect!"

The University of Texas graduate earned a bachelor's degree in advertising, specializing in the creative sequence. A few credits short from a minor in astronomy, she continued taking Latin, including a course in Ecclesiastical Latin Translation.

Jiru then pursued her dream to be a lawyer, something she wanted to do since the 6th grade. "My father instilled in me a 'take the initiative' approach to life," Jiru says, "and my mom, step-mom Kay Jiru, and step-dad William Woodyard, have always supported me and encouraged me to fulfill my dreams."

The Air Force lawyer earned her juris doctorate degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston, graduating summa cum laude, finishing fourth out of 250 students. During her time at the law school, Jiru studied abroad in Malta taking courses in International Admiralty and International Law and Policy. In conjunction with that experience, she traveled to Italy and Greece.

Ballroom dancing is a passion for the colorful sashayer. She joined the UT Ballroom Dance Club, serving as an officer and publicity chairperson. In 1994, the Longhorn and her UT

partner danced away with first place in tango in the national collegiate division, during the International Dance Festival.

The event was sponsored by the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dance Association. They also placed second in the waltz/fox-trot, samba/jive and rumba/cha cha during that same competition.

Jiru's current dance partner is Jason McClellan, also known as J-Mykel, a local disc jockey with 96.1 FM. They are now preparing for the Texas Ballroom Dancesport Competition, which takes place in Houston this spring. They intend to compete in a three dance championship consisting of cha-cha, rumba, and samba. Their coach is Esteban Cardenas, from Tango and Cha-Cha's Ballroom Dance Studio in Dallas. They train at the local studio, Let's Dance, owned by Reuben Arce.

The airman is also a seafarer. Since she was a child, she has enjoyed family cruises to the Caribbean and Glacier Bay. Just before she started high school, her mother and stepfather took Julie and her brother on a summer cruise aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2, a 33-year old cruise liner operated by the Cunard Line.

They traveled from New York City to England and Scotland. During the cruise Jiru took ballroom dance lessons.

On a cruise to Grand Cayman Island and Mexico, Jiru met her Hungarian penpal. His name is Csaba Martinak. He is trained an engineer in Hungary, but works for a Carnival Line cruise ship known as Fascination. They have been corresponding for about two and a half years.

Col. Rich Prins, 311th HSW staff judge advocate, is glad Jiru is on his staff. "In addition to being a super attorney, Julie bleeds Air Force blue," he said. "In fact, luckily for our office, nobody would like to live in a tent in the most obscure corner of the earth while serving her country more than Julie Jiru. We're sure Hasbro will develop a 'GI Julie' doll by next Christmas. Julie's sense of humor and 'go for the gusto' attitude toward her work and her life truly make her a joy to work with and supervise."

The military profession, law, culture, and arts are all part of Captain Jiru's forte, and she doesn't appear to be nearly finished in adding to her fields of interest.

"My mother has been the wind beneath my wings. I want to make her proud," the Air Force lawyer concludes for now. So far, so good.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

For a 12-year-old girl who struggles daily to cope with deteriorating eyesight, having a chance to share the wonders of space with fellow students recently became for her an enlightening experience.

Contreil Littles, a Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School seventh grade student, was given a second chance at enhanced sight thanks to the Challenger Learning Center staff at Brooks.

Fitted with a specially designed device that magnified images for her at the Challenger Center, Littles saw what she missed last year during her first trip in simulated space.

"I could see the (computer) screen and read the words. I read the instructions (for the experiments) to my partner," Littles said of her contributions to the Mission Control student medical team.

When she later manned a space station keyboard, her ability to react quickly to computer-generated celestial objects made the Challenger adventure more rewarding for a girl whose favorite subject is science.

The device that helped Littles fully participate in Challenger Center missions was acquired through collaboration between the Brooks Aerospace Foundation, Texas Education Agency's Region 20 Education Services Center and the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind.

"After we opened the San Antonio Challenger Learning Center last year, I arranged for our staff to visit the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind," explained Herb Klein, Brooks Aerospace Foundation president. "They showed us the latest technology and equipment that they were using that could have applications for our center."

"Our staff was asked to evaluate several devices for possible use in our missions."

Subsequently, Region 20 purchased vision enhancement equipment that has since been fully integrated with Challenger Center

“It (device) is eye glasses with a monitor built inside the lenses. A small camera is connected to it. The camera transfers an image up through the eye piece where it is magnified.”

Priscilla Thompson
S.A.I.S.D.
teacher for the visually impaired



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum

Priscilla Thompson, a San Antonio Independent School District teacher for the visually impaired, works with Contreil Littles during her Challenger Learning Center visit at Brooks.

Failing vision doesn't stop student from seeing

missions. These missions have been modified based on input from teachers of visually impaired students.

San Antonio Independent School District's Priscilla Thompson, a veteran teacher of the visually impaired, credits Challenger Center commander Jody Harkrider with facilitating the adaptation of vision enhancement equipment.

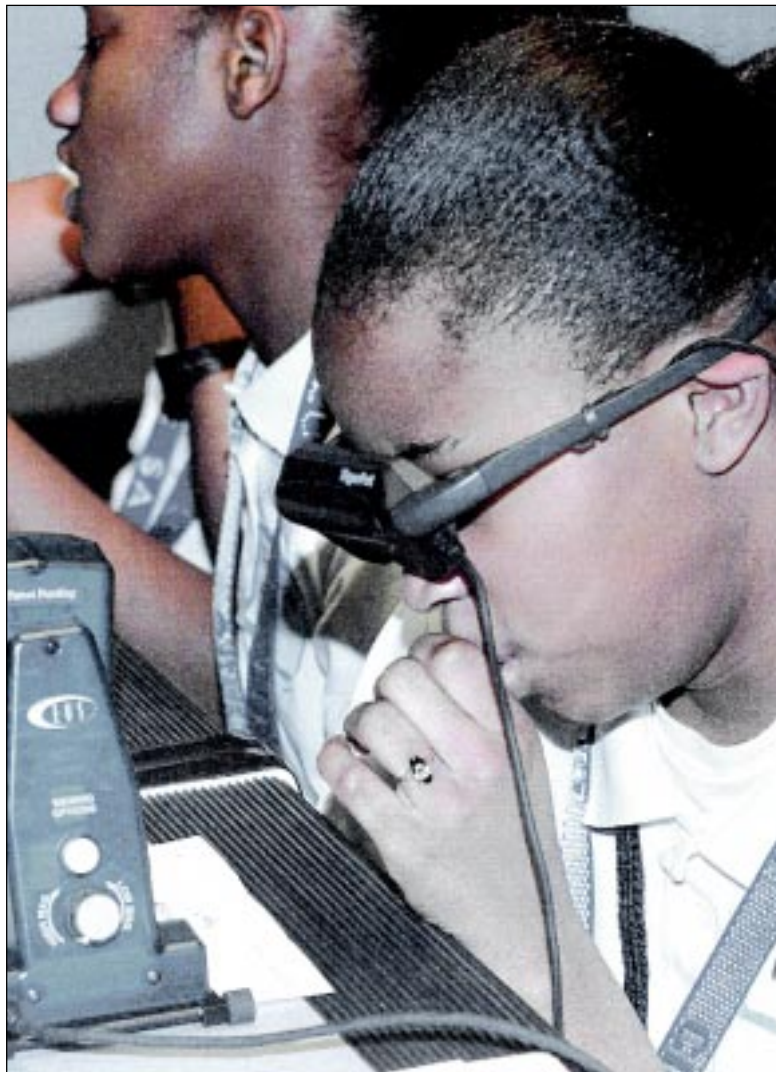
"Jody approached us about experimenting with the (visual enhancement) device to see how it was going to work," said Thompson, referring to the first time the device had been used at the Challenger Center.

San Antonio Independent School District's Priscilla Thompson, a veteran teacher of the visually impaired, credits Challenger Center commander Jody Harkrider with providing a solution for visually challenged students.

"Jody approached us with an idea of using the (visually enhancing) device that she borrowed from Texas Education Agency's Region 20. We experimented with the device to see how it was going to work," said Thompson, referring to the first time the device had been used at the Challenger Center.

"It (device) is eye glasses with a monitor built inside the lenses. A small camera is connected to it. The camera transfers an image up through the eye piece where it is magnified," explains Thompson.

At school and home, Littles uses close circuit television designed for



At "mission control," Littles deciphers her medical team instructions using a visual magnifying device adapted for use at the Challenger Learning Center.

visually impaired students. The system is large and cumbersome, but allows Littles to magnify printed material.

"She has been diagnosed with chronic interior uveitis, an inflammation of the iris and the tissue inside the eye. She is losing her vision," said Thompson who is the girl's Braille instructor.

Her teacher said the seventh grader's condition

has worsened since last year, making Littles's second visit to the Challenger Center even more meaningful.

"SAISD sends only sixth graders to the Challenger Center. (As a seventh grader) she would not have come back if it wasn't for Jody wanting to experiment with the device," Thompson said.

Thompson trained Littles in the device's use prior to

their Brooks visit. "I had seen the device before," said Thompson, noting that this visual magnifier is one of the tools TEA's Education Services Center uses to help visually impaired students read.

Thompson explained, "There was a lot of reading involved for the medical team during experiments. Reading for her is very slow."

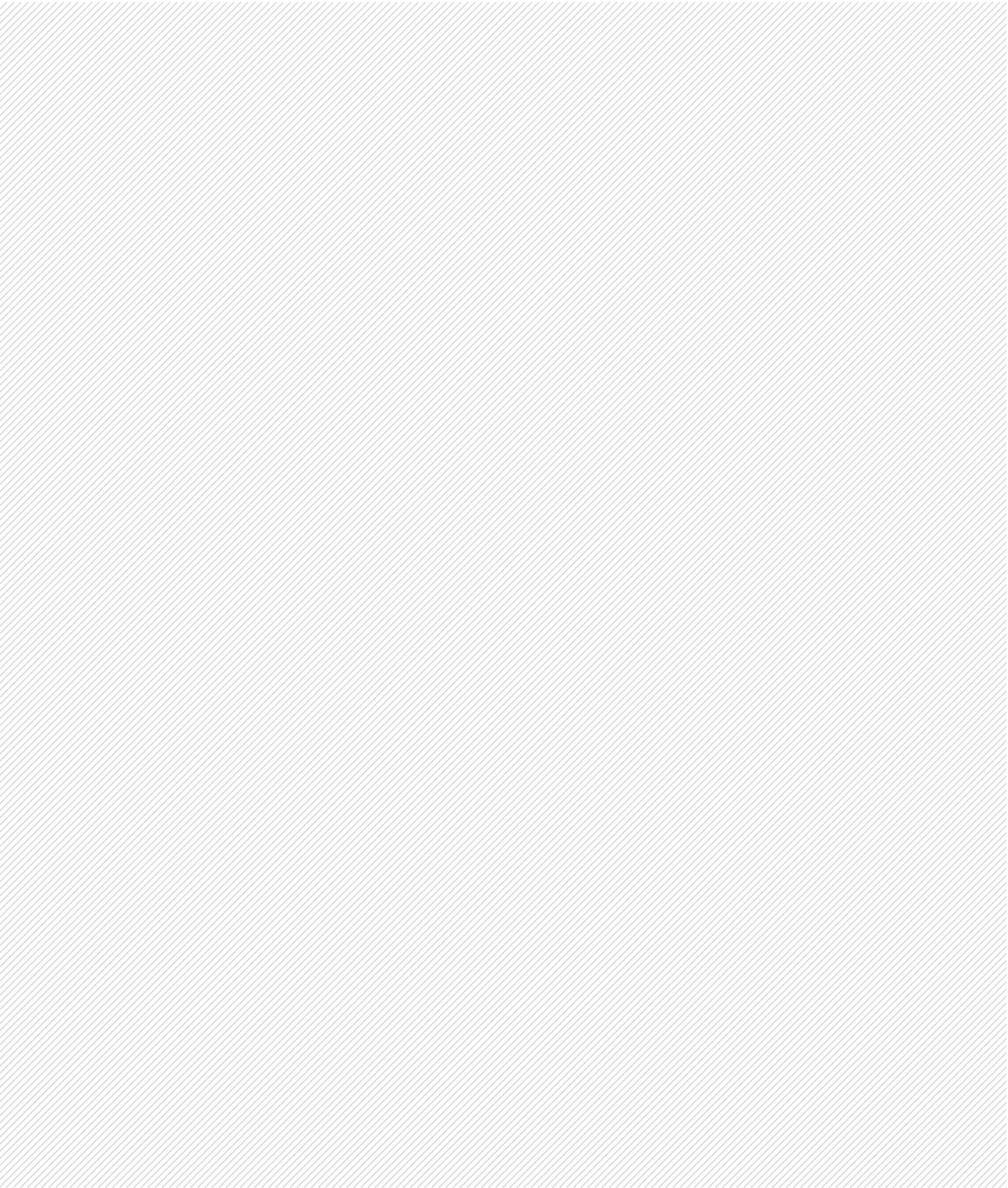
Thompson and Harkrider plan to modify the Challenger Center's medical team instructions for visually impaired students.

"SAISD has already produced Braille copies of the Challenger Center medical experiments," Thompson said, noting that the successful experiment with Littles will help other visually impaired students in the future.

"I think it's great. I was surprised and pleased that they (Challenger Center staff) followed up (with their idea)," said Patricia Flores, a MLK sixth grade teacher who had worked with Littles last year. "She couldn't participate (in the experiments too much) last year. Their redesign of the medical station for her (using the device) really helped her this year," Flores said.

The soft-spoken Littles raised her voice in muted excitement when she relayed her contributions inside the space station. "I was the first to see an object (computer-generated image) on the screen," she said, knowing that her day in 'space' has become for her a lifetime memory.

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Brooks-trained pilot receives honor for chances taken during war

By Rick Guidry
Discovery Staff Writer

When Wilbur West graduated from cadet flying school at Brooks Jan. 9, 1942, he knew he would be asked to take chances. World War II was underway.

During the 60th Anniversary Reunion of Cadet Class 42-A in Hangar 9, West mused about his war experiences.

Shortly after graduation, the first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps, was piloting B-24D Liberators. He was tapped to participate in the Halverson Project while assigned with the 376th Bombardment Group.

The unit departed the United States May 20, 1942 to begin attacks on Japanese targets from a base located in China. En route, they were informed the planned staging base had been capture by Japanese forces.

The HALPRO crews were diverted to Fayid, Egypt to conduct bombing raids on Romanian oil refineries in

Ploesti that were fueling Germany’s war effort. This was the first American heavy bomber attack on enemy targets in Europe.

When West took off from Fayid June 11, 1942, he knew he would not return there because the 2,400 mile round trip to Ploesti was beyond the aircraft’s range.

After a successful bombing run June 12, he and some 30 crew members in a four-ship formation were forced to crash land for lack of fuel in Turkey. Three aircraft were undamaged. Despite information to the contrary, Turkey would not share oil, and the aviators were essentially stranded

As a diplomatic gesture, the United States gave the planes to Turkey, and agreed that the Ameri-

can pilots could take Turkish flyers on training flights.

The Americans were under guard at all times. The Pine Bluff, Ark. native devised an escape plan by saving small amounts of fuel each day during training flights.

Six months and three days after capture, West led a group of nine captives that stole a B-24 and flew it to Nicosia, Cyprus and freedom. He spent Christmas in Cairo and then re-joined the 376th, leaving the Army Air Corps as a major in

Base in Jacksonville, Ark. His cousin, Maj. Gen. Lewis E. Lyle, presented him the medal.

“It (the war) was the turning point for freedom for the free world,” West said.

“It’s great to be remembered for having a small role in protecting our freedom,” he said.

“There’s a sense of sadness, thinking maybe this is the last time you’ll see these people,” West said.

West owns and operates more than 1,400 acres of farm land, planting cotton, rice and soybeans. In 1982 he received the Harvey W. McGeorge award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture in Arkansas.

“It’s great to be remembered for having a small role in protecting our freedom.”

Wilbur West
Brooks-trained pilot

1945.

West, 78, a farmer and retired businessman, received the Silver Star medal in January, 2000, for gallantry in action. The ceremony was held at Little Rock Air Force

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



Personnel

Continued from Page 1

Inventory and Referral System, which replaces the old Promotion and Placement Referral System.

The new merit promotion system will enable employees to take control of their own careers.

The process includes the opportunity to review vacancy announcements and the ability to indicate positions of interest by "self nomination". Employees will no longer receive automatic consideration for Air Force Career Program and non-Career Program civilian vacancies.

Under STAIRS, all vacancies will be announced for a minimum of 5 business days with announcements being updated every Friday. All employees will be required to self nominate for consideration for

promotions, reassignments and changes to lower grades.

The Brooks civilian personnel division is currently disseminating information on deployment of the modern system and implementation of the new merit promotion program to the Brooks workforce through a variety of sources, including memorandums, handbooks, cards, newsletters, e-mail, commanders, supervisors and civilian liaisons, videos, and the CPD website.

Air Force training began early in 2000 and continues today to ensure readiness for the Feb. 15 deployment of the system.

More information is available on the AFPC website or by contacting civilian personnel at 536-3535.

Clinic Notes

Effective immediately, Prilosec (omeprazole) will no longer be available at the Brooks Pharmacy.

The Department of Defense Pharmacoeconomic Center has deleted Prilosec from the Basic Core Formulary and has added Aciphex (rabeprazole) in its place.

All military pharmacies in the greater San Antonio area have implemented this program.

Patients with Prilosec prescriptions from Brooks Clinic providers will automatically be switched from Prilosec to the replacement Aciphex (rabeprazole).

Patients with prescriptions from other military bases or from civilian providers must bring in a new prescription by Jan. 31, 2002. Refills will be honored until then.

Patients always have the option to use their Tricare prescription benefit at any of the local retail network pharmacy. The copay for Prilosec will be \$9 for a 30-day supply.

All prescriptions filled at a network pharmacy must be refilled at a network pharmacy.

For more information, call the Brooks pharmacy at 536-2134.

Tax Tips

Free Income Tax Assistance Available on Base

This year the Brooks Law Office will provide a full-time Tax Center to assist the Brooks community in the preparation and filing of their tax returns.

The Tax Center also offers free electronic filing of tax returns.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives from different base organizations have received training from the IRS under the VITA Program and are prepared to offer basic assistance relating to personal income tax preparation.

VITA representatives are also available to answer basic income tax questions, and provide both federal and state tax forms on a walk-in basis at the Tax Center.

The Tax Center is located in Bldg. 912 and will offer services from Feb. 5 through April 12.

There will also be a satellite office in the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine for students and instructors.

All active duty, retired personnel, and their dependents may take advantage of the free tax services. However, scheduling priority will be given to active duty members and their families.

Individuals with appointments

to file electronic tax returns must bring all W-2 Forms to the Tax Center. Filers may receive refunds by direct deposit if they bring a routing transit and account number. Those who file electronic returns should receive direct deposit refunds within 10-14 days, and treasury check refunds within 21 days.

Income tax assistance is one of the benefits provided through the Air Force Personal Legal Assistance Program administered by the 311th Human Systems Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

According to the IRS, the following are just some of the benefits of e-filing your tax return:

Increased Accuracy: The chance of getting an error notice from the IRS is reduced significantly because the software will not process the income tax return if it has an error.

Increased Security: A direct link from the Brooks Tax Center to the IRS database ensures the privacy and security of personal information. With paper returns, filers run the risk of their documents being lost or possibly misfiled.

Proof of Acceptance: The client receives proof of timely filing through an IRS acknowledgment

receipt. The IRS usually sends these acknowledgements within 48 hours after receiving an e-filing transmission. Paper returns do not offer this service.

Faster Refunds: Clients receive their refunds in half the time, compared to a paper return that can average 6 to 8 weeks. The Direct Deposit option even further expedites obtaining refunds; some clients may see their money in as little as 10 days.

Electronic Payment Options: Electronic filing offers additional convenient, safe and secure electronic payment options, including electronic funds withdrawal from your bank account and credit card payment.

Combined Federal/State Filing: In addition to federal returns, clients can e-file their state tax returns and double the benefits from e-filing.

Last year, this program, through its volunteers, saved more than 1,000 Brooks community members in excess of \$50,000 in income tax preparation fees.

Please contact your unit tax assistor, or Capt. Julie Jiru at 536-3301, for further information.

E-file for free at the Brooks tax office.
Call 536-3301 for your appointment.

First-time CC award-winners earn top honor for post-'911' support

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Two Brooks units earned their first 311th Human Systems Wing Commander's Award recently for their post-Sept. 11 contributions made in support of America's new war on terrorism.

For only the third time in the award's history, the base's highest honor was presented to two separate winners simultaneously.

January 11 the 68th Information Operations Squadron's Operations Flight and the 311th Security Forces Squadron shared the spotlight as the November and December award recipients, respectively, during a twin ceremony presided by Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th HSW commander.

The 68th IOS, a tenant unit that is part of Air Combat Command, was recognized for operations security support its 68-member Operations Flight provided to Unified and Major Commands during Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Operations Flight personnel, who were deployed to eight locations, monitored 67,483 telephone calls and 235,918 e-mails that resulted in the interception of 759 reportable security disclosures.

As a consequence of their identifying force protection and defensive information vulnerabilities,

several OPSEC security changes have been implemented, noted Maj. Carlos Bushman, 68th IOS director of operations.

Lt. Col. Steven "Remo" Payson, 68th IOS commander, said, "They (Operations Flight) are definitely making an impact on the security postures of DoD warfighters embroiled in ongoing operations. This flight's successes are the epitome of this unit's motto, 'Determination in Spirit'."

Col. Terry Nelsen, 311th Air Base Group commander, was equally effusive in praise for the 311th SFS.

"During October 2001, the 311th SFS provided exceptional mission support for Brooks AFB in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the United States. The squadron maintained rock solid security while in Force Protection conditions throughout the entire month," Nelson noted.

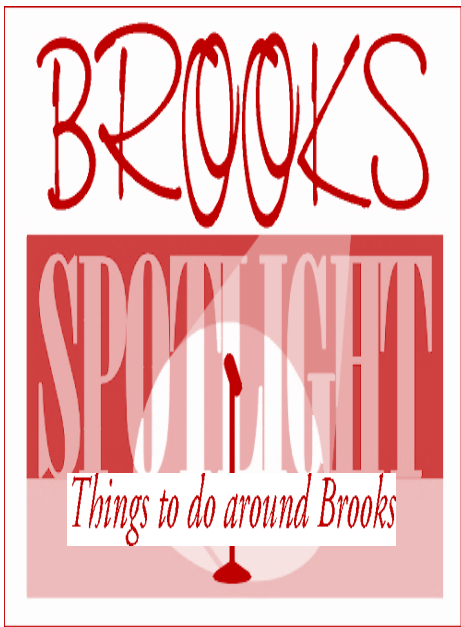
Working grueling 12-hour shifts and assisted by 22 READY augmentees, squadron personnel investigated five suspicious package incidents, 14 alarm activations, and secured seven buildings that were discovered to be unsecured.

Subsequently assisted by 20 individual mobilization augmentees, the squadron also detained seven civilians who had outstanding arrest warrants, including a parole violator.

Additionally, an illegal immigrant was detained and turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Besides fulfilling increased security requirements, the squadron also integrated new response procedures for San Antonio Fire Department and ambulance services.





By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

NAF Auction

A NAF Auction is being held in Bldg. 1157 (former auto skills center) today. The auction begins at 10 a.m. and will continue until items are sold. Items may be viewed from 9-9:30 a.m.

The sale includes vehicles, boats, lawn mowers, industrial refrigerators and freezers, deep fat fryers, commercial kilns with accessories, silk screen equipment and supplies, tables, chairs, lamps, pictures and a large variety of tools and automotive shop equipment.

Items are sold as is, and only to valid military, DoD civilians and contractor identification card holders.

Cash or checks will be accepted. Purchasers must present a current photo ID with checks.

The FrameWorks Bldg. 1154, 536-2120

Valentine's Day is just around the corner.

Stop by the FrameWorks or call in your order now and select a balloon bouquet for that special person in your

life. Latex balloons are \$1 each and mylar balloons are \$2 each. Orders will be accepted starting January 27 and will be filled in the order they are received. Bouquets will be ready for pick-up Feb. 14 beginning at 9 a.m. The staff will also assist with attaching balloons to gifts.

Brooks Club Bldg. 204, 536-3782

The Brooks Consolidated Club System has streamlined their operation in order to provide quality service to our many valued customers. The Brooks Club will no longer serve lunch through the cafeteria line. We will handle special functions during the day or evening. Please use Sidney's Grill & Lounge for your food and beverage needs.

The Boar's Head Pub will serve from their menu Monday through Friday from 4-8 p.m. Call 536-3782 to place take-out orders. Club members receive a 10% discount on food items.

Make plans to attend the Tailgate Party and watch Super Bowl XXXIV at the Brooks Club on the big screen TV. Doors open at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish and the club will provide light hors d'oeuvres. Various specials will be offered during the game and drawings will be held each quarter.

Family child care Bldg. 510, 536-2041

The need for quality childcare for military families has never been greater. Air Force Family Child Care providers provide care for military and Department of Defense dependent children and enjoy the convenience of working at home.

The Family Child Care Program employs persons with chronic health problems. Working with children is a career where one person really makes a difference.

Family Child Care providers receive training in CPR, First Aid, res-

cue breathing, record keeping and child development.

Advantages of family child care include:

- *Small settings with personalized care
- *Familiar home environment
- *Mixed age groups
- *Flexible scheduling
- *Continuity of the provider

The program provides care for children with chronic health problems, infants as young as 2 weeks, children of families in crisis, children with special needs and night time or extended hours

Anyone providing child care for more than 10 hours per week on a regular basis must be licensed.

The 311th Air Base Group Commander is the licensing authority at Brooks. To begin the licensing process contact the Family Child Care Office.

Outdoor Recreation Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

It is time to renew garden plots. If you already have a plot please stop by and renew your plot as soon as possible.

This can become a very educational experience for children, young and old at heart. There are 56 numbered plots with water between every four plots.

The annual rental fee is \$10 per plot. Stop by and ask Rick Jones about the great possibilities of growing produce or even flowers for the home and office.

Reservations for pavilions are being accepted. There are four pavilions located on Brooks for the base population to use.

They range in price from \$15-\$35. Be sure to stop by and make your reservations as soon as you have a firm date. Outdoor Recreation's hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-4 p.m.

Base Library Bldg. 705, 536-2634

Have you ever wondered what the books with the green labels are? You've seen them on special shelves.

They are fiction and non-fiction books the library leases from a company called McNaughtons. In addition to being cost effective, the lease provides us multiple copies of best selling books so our customers don't have to wait long for a popular book. When the book is no longer needed it is sent back to the company.

We can also get books you need using an interlibrary loan request to libraries that have the book in their collection. It usually takes one to two weeks for the book to arrive. There is no charge for this service!

Federal appreciation night at the Spurs

Be a part of the Spur's T-shirt Night February 4 starting at 7:30 pm in the Alamodome. For \$19 per person you receive a \$17.50 game ticket, a Spurs "Gotta Be There" T-shirt and vouchers for popcorn and soda.

Seats are assigned on a first come first serve basis with no refunds or exchanges. Order forms are available on e-mail or may be picked up in Services Marketing, Bldg. 1154, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. The deadline to order is Jan. 31.

Brooks Atrium Bldg. 1154

Visit the Brooks Atrium. Bldg. 1154, located on 9th Street directly behind the baseball field, as a new name.

The renovated interior of the Brooks Atrium is home to the Services Marketing Department, The FrameWorks and Outdoor Recreation. While visiting The FrameWorks be sure to check out the consignment area, Crafted With Care. You can pick up handcrafted gifts for family, friends or office personnel.

Rent items such as tables, chairs, grills, camping equipment, sports equipment, bicycles and other items from Equipment Check-Out located in Outdoor Recreation. They also are in charge of the Fam Camp, base pavilions, Lemon Lot and Vehicle Storage Lot.